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T.T. THE BEAR'S STONE SOUP

BEGINNING MONDAY FEBRUARY 11, 1991 T.T.THE BEAR'S KITCHEN WILL OFFER A LIMITED SUPPER AND SNACK MENU DURING PERFORMANCES OF THE STONE SOUP PROGRAM.

THE MENU WILL INCLUDE SOUPS, STEWS, CHOWDERS, AND CHILI ON A REVOLVING BASIS. FEATURED AS WELL WILL BE DOUBLE CRUST PIZZA, CHICKEN AND SEAFOOD GUMBO,CHICKEN CREOLE,CHEESE AND FRUIT PLATES AS WELL AS SOME DIFFERENT AND IMAGINATIVE LIGHT ENTREES.

TO TOP THE EVENING OF WE WILL INTRODUCE A VARIETY OF HOME BAKED DESERTS. HIGHLIGHTING THE OFFERINGS WILL BE OUR OWN FRESH CARROT CAKE, BROWNIES, CHOCOLATE BUNT CAKE,FRESH PIES AND A VAST ASSORTMENT OF OTHER CONFECTIONS.

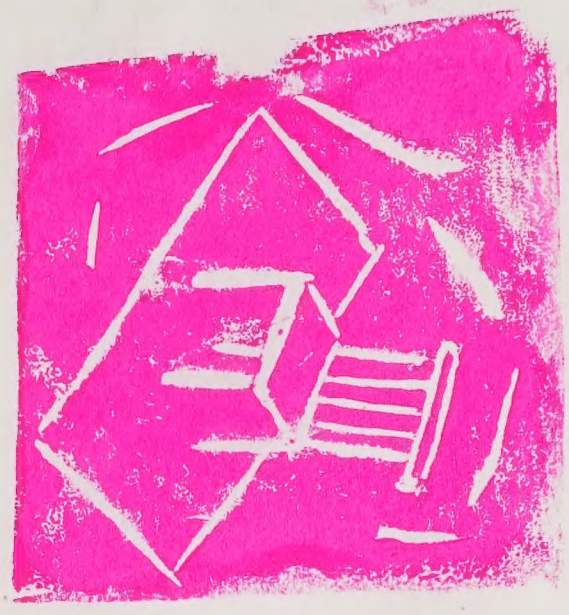
WE WANT YOU TO ENJOY YOUR EVENING AT STONE SOUP.SO PLEASE COME EARLY, ENJOY A LIGHT SUPPER OR SUPER DESERT; THAN SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE SHOW.

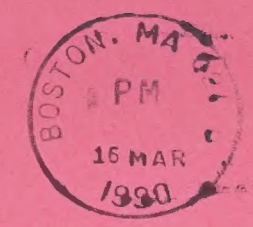
THANKS FOR COMING

T.T. THE BEAR'S PLACE

Our doubts are traitors
and make us lose
the good we oft might win
by fearing to attempt.
- Love's Labour's Lost

Thrift, thrift, Horatio,
the funeral baked meats
did coldly furnish forth
the marriage table.
- Hamlet





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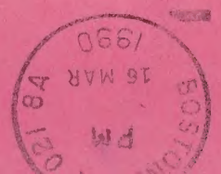


Dear Brewster -

I hope you won't mind if I take this opportunity to return to you some advice you gave me.

I hope that while you are in pain you will share your feelings with a friend or two friends you know you can trust. I know you aren't accustomed to leaning on people in this way, but I think it's really important for several reasons: it helps you lessen the pain; it allows your friends who love you to express their love to you and makes them feels special knowing you trust them; it adds depth to your relationships; it makes you realize there isn't a single feeling or state of mind (numbness, physical, visceral pain, whatever) that is too much for a sensitive person to understand, or that a sensitive person hasn't felt; sharing emotions and allowing yourself to feel them will help you understand yourself better. As I said this weekend, I believe our emotions really guide us; therefore, recognizing them and their causes allows us to act honestly and in our best interest & in the best interest of others. ~~Otherwise~~ you might be reacting out of fear or pain or anger ~~Rather than~~. And you might be led astray, if you shut down part of your

I think for instance, that you repeat the same pattern in your relationships because of your parents' divorce ~~because~~ yes, you end relationships partly because the person isn't right for you but also partly because you haven't looked at how your parents divorce may have devastated you. Forgive me for overstepping my bounds. feelings.

I hope you don't mind me saying all this.

I think it's so important for you to examine your fears about relationships because you have so much to offer, and because I am afraid that you will settle for less than true intimacy and understanding out of the fear of conflict. Brewster, I believe it is impossible to exist closely, really closely, with someone without conflict. I also believe that people can exist very closely, recognizing conflict, and that to do so is the most wonderful part of being alive. ~~[illegible]~~ If you don't allow conflict on the surface, then it festers beneath it. I think many marriages end because people can't or won't communicate what bothers them. Problems build and build, until one day, someone leaves, and neither person understands exactly why. I am afraid for you because you fear conflict so much, but I really believe you can overcome this. I know you will, if you want to. I've seen the ability in our dealings with each other. For the most part, until the end, that is, I sensed your commitment to working things out, which made me feel safe and open, as I think it did for you. I'm glad you were able to cry a little this weekend. It shows you are able to experience pain and to express it. It's because we can communicate that we have been so deeply tied to one another.

Your emotions control you, but paradoxically, the more you understand them and give them rein, the more you can choose which ones to act upon, the more you are in control of yourself.

Please talk about me. Please talk about marriage, divorce, relationships. Choose your friends you trust carefully, but don't neglect to do so. Please talk about your mother. Don't be afraid or ashamed. Lot's of people have parents who have drinking problems. I think you're afraid that you, or whomever you marry will end up like your mother. It's not true. But cutting yourself off from her won't help. Besides, I don't think she's a lost cause. I think she feels unloved. I think she feels no one needs her. I think she feels like she doesn't make a difference in anyone's life so she figures no one will notice if she destroys herself. I don't believe you can save her. She needs the will to come from herself. But you can confront her. You can be honest with her. Perhaps if she sees how her drinking affects you, she will start thinking about pulling herself together. In that way you can help. Of course I don't know anything about this really. But if she is bent on shutting herself, wouldn't you want to know that at least you tried to offer her love,

compassion.

God, I'm really sorry if I'm upsetting you. I don't know why I'm saying all this. After our weekend of torture and confusion, this is what has emerged in me. I don't feel anger, I feel love. Please accept this letter as an act of love and forgiveness. I hope it gives you strength the way you've given strength to me.

Love,

Hope

14 January 1990

Dear Brewster,

This time has been incredibly painful for us. I see you in terrible uncertainty, and myself with painful clarity, and I want to help you make the right decision. Perhaps I can explain myself better on paper than in person or on the phone, where I am often just reeling and reacting to what you are saying.

I love you. You love me. What could be simpler? Logistics aside, I want to continue going out with you. I don't understand why you aren't so certain you want to go out with me.

I don't understand why everything I've told you doesn't ease the pressure for you? I've told you I love you, I love San Francisco that if There had been no Brewster in my life, then I'd probably be in SF now, and that if we break up, I'd probably move to SF anyway. I've told you that, while I know we have problems, I also know we have good things going for us, and that, based on my current knowledge, I can't imagine calling off our wonderful connection, nor can I sign myself up for life. Why doesn't all this make you feel better? I'm telling you the truth.

This is so painful for me. Still, I appreciate that you want to work it out with me. I'd feel a million times worse if you were only mulling it over inside yourself.

I should address some of your concerns. Friends. I believe we would be friends if we weren't going out. You'd be my quirky friend Brewster. I'm sure I'd enjoy you as much as I do now. On the other hand, I'm not sure the question makes sense. Would

there be a time when Brewster & Hope met and they didn't go out? We aren't only friends. It's a different connection with some different emotions.

Would you "push" me in directions I want to go? Well, please don't push. I have a rebellious side. Perverse. More flies with honey, and so on. Look, I'm not sure where I want to go, careers-wise. I have a general direction, and I feel I'm picking up steam. What I need from anyone is encouragement, praise, acceptance, what everyone needs. You can also give me advice, I'm sure. But look, in the year I've known you, I've grown in many ways. I'm much more comfortable in groups, which I wanted to be, I'm much smarter, I discuss politics, plans for saving the world, which I wanted to do, and I don't suffer from incessant internal brain-loops as much as I did before, which makes me a more vital person. I also have a whole bunch of new friends I really respect. Last Thursday I came home to a Thurs. night dinner of 15-20 people in full force. As I walked in, all these people called out to me, or came running to greet me. I felt wonderful. I know them all because of you. In short, knowing you has already pushed me in directions I wanted to go. You're really special.

I encourage you to examine yourself. I carry the torch in that department, so how could I do otherwise? But don't overburden yourself. It's not as if it's an irrevocable decision. It may be you aren't prepared to make The decision as you see it: huge, frightening, eternal. Maybe one question to ask is why do you see it this way? I don't, which doesn't mean I'm not taking it

very seriously, or that I'm blindly glossing over the bad stuff. It's just that I can't decide, from where we are, if I think we should be able to be together for ever. Maybe that's not quite true. I can see us together forever. But I reserve the right to reevaluate and change my mind later. I don't need to iron it all out now. I'm not afraid that I'd feel obliged to stick with it, just because I moved to San Francisco to facilitate it. I'm not afraid of trapping myself. I trust myself to know when it's wrong. I know I wouldn't be able to ignore those signals in myself. It seems right, now.

[redacted]

Andy is demonstrating how the soprano we're listening to would sound on 16 rpm. I'll be talking to you later today.

Love,
Hope

30 october 1989

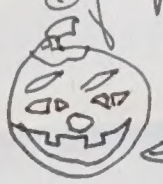
Dear Brewster -

Happy anniversary! Boy, one year ago I was shaking my head in bewilderment, thinking, did I REALLY get bare back naked in a hot tub with a bunch of people + let someone I just met run his hands all over my body? So I called a few friends and told them about it in vivid detail.

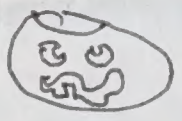
I love you. I'm really glad I was a brazen hussy and stripped in front of you 4 hours and 30 seconds after meeting you.

I'm having trouble writing to you. I'm having trouble writing in general. I haven't written in my journal in eons. So much has happened to me I wouldn't know where to begin. Besides, the whole abortion pregnancy Thing is too hard to describe. I should write though. Eventually, it would probably be very enlightening to know what happened to me these past few months.

David just asked me to perform chiropractic services on his back. Julianne and I carved pumpkins. She planned hers carefully; I just started whaling at mine. I said it was going to be an expression of myself. Andy said I have more teeth than that.



← Hope's



Julianne's ←

I'm feeling really goopy about you. I love you and I'm so glad I know you. I learn all kinds of fun stuff with you and you even let me take care of you a little, which is really important to me. I've felt completely comfortable around you from the start, which is why I'm so emotional with you. By the way, Donna helped me realize something. I told her you get really upset when I'm mad + you think we fight a lot. Most of the time when I'm upset I let you know, I cry or get mad, then I forget all about it. From my point of view it's over + forgotten. To me, those aren't fights. We've had a few fights, but these are more ventings than fights and to a certain extent they are helpful. They clear the air for me. But I realize it upsets you past the point when I've forgotten about it, so I'll

try to change a little. ~~Actually~~ I probably can't change much. It should help you to know that, no matter what I say while I'm upset, the fact is that I'm telling you about it, I'm turning to you about whatever it is, because I want to work it out, I want to make sure no resentments are building up.

Here's a tape of Shawn Colvin live at the Somerville Theatre. She's got a great voice.

I'm trying to be really organized ~~and~~ by mailing everything to you less than a week since you left.

Love,
Hope

Catullus, my favorite Latin poet says:

da mi basia mille deinde centum,
dein mille altera, dein secunda centum,
deinde usque altera mille, deinde centum.

October 1990

Brewster,

I've felt, off and on, that I wanted to answer your letter ever since you gave it to me at the end of July. I know I've already responded it to, but it seems like there's still a question in it for me. I know you were trying to explain yourself to me, but it seemed like you were also asking me how I felt about what you were saying, that you also wanted to know if I saw a future for us. The answer is yes. It gladdened me ~~much~~ more than it frightened me, which it also did. It filled me with joy and expectation, and yes, with some fear and awe. I guess it's not important to you anymore, but there it is.

Love,
Hope

5-6 Feb. 1991

Brewster,

I didn't think I still felt so much pain about you until our talk last night. I've been ~~xxxxx~~ pushing it aside, I guess, trying not to be hurt by your choices. The numbness and sarcasm I was using are frightening. It feels much better to be in touch.

Maybe it's just bull-headedness on my part that I can't understand why. How could someone not love me, not want to be with me, with ME? I think its too painful to believe that. Especially after I felt your love, I felt your commitment, I felt your trust. That's what doesn't make sense, that's why I can't digest what you tell me, that we'd be more apart than together. Are we? Are you?

I watched you struggle with yourself over our breakup, before and after, and it seems we never resolved anything. It was an arbitrary decision, finally. Not that feeling like 2 people wouldn't grow as a couple is a bad reason to break up. I feel that about Steve. Yet somehow I don't believe it of you and me. It's just my side, I guess. I know I've grown. With you, without you, I grow. So when you say "we" wouldn't grow, "we'd" be more apart, for whom are you speaking? If you're speaking for you, where's the proof? How have you grown, matured, achieved, without me, as opposed to how you did with me? And how can you speak for me? Do you really think you know that for me, too? Maybe you feel altruistic, but I think you saw how much your move to California upset me, how it upset the balance, how much we meant to each other, and you couldn't believe you could do it. That

you could make me happy and have a career. That you could invest the emotional energy and be successful, knowing that to be with me involved deep emotion. I think you got scared of failure, so you decided to cut your losses & quit while you were ahead.

I started this letter to write about the imbalance of power theory, because when we talk I get defensive and I never can explain myself. Because it's kind of insulting to hear you say you were dominant. Like I was submissive me?

You are right, sort of. The power did get out of whack, when you decided to move. I no longer felt like an equal, I no longer felt like a priority, and I no longer had the freedom of plenty of time with you, I wasn't in control any longer. Your leaving upset me so profoundly. It really pulled the rug out from under me. Here I was losing someone I loved, someone I thought loved me. It's everyone's big fear, but it's particularly acute with me, because my mother killed herself and left me. So I'm even more susceptible to it than most people. I was trapped, and so you're right, I felt powerless. I was too hurt and angry to just move with you. That wouldn't have satisfied me that I was a priority to you. That would have preserved the imbalance. You're right. So then it was your choice. You couldn't make it, though. It was too much responsibility. It shouldn't have had to be such a tremendous deal, but it ended up having to be. And then it all got distorted and cracked. You sacrificed our relationship.

Would I do it differently now? Would I move? No. I couldn't settle

for second place. I couldnt have moved until I felt as sure as I had earlier, before the California thing came up, that I was top priority. I had felt that.

I dont fully comprehend what were struggling with. I guess I should say, what I am struggling with. A decision that makes some sense, but not enough. Something doesnt feel right about it. Love. Missing you. Not just a warm body in my bed, for I could find that if I wanted it. But your body, your company, your ideas, your quirks, The person I felt so at ease with. The person I felt so connected to, the person I unfolded to so naturally, so willingly.

Why did it have to be so black-and-white? Why couldnt we have said, okay, this is too fast, let's see how we feel in a year?

I am sorry the abortion weighs on you. I hadnt thought about it recently, or only in the most abstract way. Last night stirred up a lot: the sense of waste; the sense of loss; the symbolism of it. It definately reminds me of our deep connection. It's a link between us. It's an unfinished possibility.

You were so supportive of me during the whole ordeal. Thank you. I hope you dont blame me, subconsciously. It's been very difficult to come to terms with, I havent, completely. It was the right decision, but it still feels wrong. To me, it felt like a baby, and I killed it anyway. It doesnt feel like a baby anymore, but I still feel guilty about it. I know it would have been

so it's hard to bear bringing it about.

healthy and intelligent? The abortion was purely selfish. I will regret it always, but I couldn't have gone through with a pregnancy then.

The hardest part about our breakup is that it felt so right between us. You are, in many ways, what I want and need, and on a gut level, it has always felt right. That's why it is still so hard to let go. I love you. But I know I'll be alright. I know what I want, I know I can have it, and I think I'm someone worth fighting for.

Love,

Hope

10 Nov. 1989

Dear Brewster -

I finished my sweater, cleaned the house, top to bottom to top, and am preparing to work on a new story.

Art is futzing with Min in the driveway; he's planning to set off either tomorrow or next Wed. The sun is shining in on me & I'm very cozy. Carl E came to dinner last night with a note taped to his forehead. The note was

~~Alexandra~~ Phone message from Julianne inviting him to dinner.

Saw Linny + Esther last night.

I want to go to Europe. I love you.

Take care.

- Hope